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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/519,538

12/28/2004

Yoshiko Hino

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2594

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7590

03/25/2008

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EXAMINER

PADEEN, CAROLYN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1794

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/25/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/519,538

Applicant(s)

HINO ET AL.

Examiner

Carolyn A. Paden

Art Unit

1794

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/86)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12-28-04
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Terauchi (4,758,444 or 4,871,562) alone or if necessary as further evidenced by Minifie.

Terauchi discloses the preparation of cacao beans. In example 2 cacao beans are shelled and cracked to produce cacao nibs. Then sodium carbonate and water are added, mixed and stirred at 90C for one hour. Then the cacao mass was stirred in water maintained at 120C and converted into a colloidal form. The mixture was then introduced into a centrifugal separator to extract the water soluble portion of the cacao. The water soluble portion was concentrated at 90C and then spray dried at 100C. Then the cacao was formulated into a beverage in Test Example 2 for taste evaluation. The claims appear to differ from Terauchi in the recitation of the temperature of extraction but cacao fat is known to have a melting point that is lower than 90C and Minifie is relied upon for support of this assertion. With the evidence of Minifie before him, it would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize the process of Terauchi to prepare the chocolate drink of the claims. It is appreciated that homogenization is not mentioned but to homogenize the cacao mixture of Terauchi would have been an obvious way to mix the cocoa drinks that were prepared for taste evaluation. It is appreciated that the fat content of the beverage is not mentioned but to optimize the cacao butter content of Terauchi would have been an obvious way to control the caloric content of the beverage. It is appreciated that the packaging container is not mentioned but packaging foods in transparent containers is well known in the art.

Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weyersbach (5,389,394) as further evidenced by Minifie.

Weyersbach discloses producing cocoa extract. In example 1 cocoa nibs are poured into a column and extracted with water at 73C for 2.5 hours to form a cocoa extract. The claims appear to differ from Weyersbach in the recitation of the temperature of extraction but cacao fat is known to have a melting point that is lower than 73C and Minifie is relied upon for support of this assertion. With the evidence of Minifie before him, it would

have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize the process of Weyersbach to prepare the cacao extract of the claims.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashi (PAJ 09-075003 abstract) as further evidenced by Minifie.

Takashi discloses crushing cacao beans, and heat treating them in alkali at 90-110 C. After drying the product was extracted with water at 85-120C. Then the insoluble materials and oil components were removed by centrifugation and filtration to obtain an extracted cacao liquid. The claims appear to differ from Takashi in the recitation of the temperature of extraction but cacao fat is known to have a melting point that is lower than 85C and Minifie is relied upon for support of this assertion. With the evidence of Minifie before him, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize the process of Takashi to prepare the cacao extract of the claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carolyn A Paden whose telephone number is (571) 272-1403. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7 am to 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano, can be reached by dialing 571-272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Carolyn Paden/

Primary Examiner 1794

